

2019 REPORT

Serving Oregon, Alaska & Guam

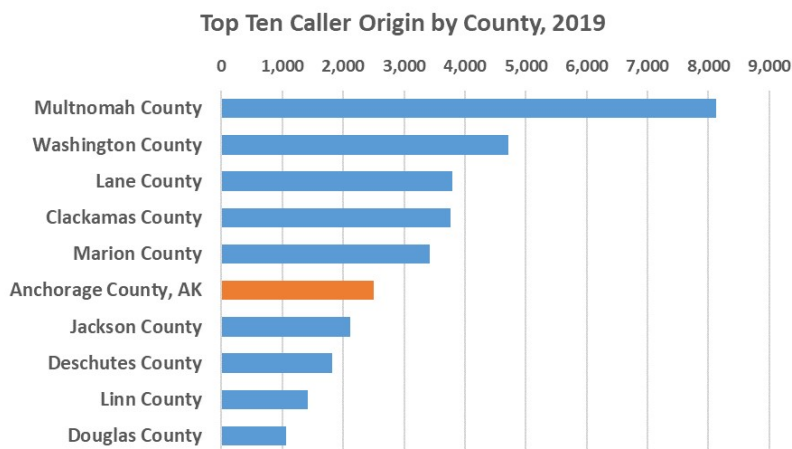


**OREGON
POISON
CENTER**

In 2019, the Oregon Poison Center managed 51,244 cases from residents, healthcare providers and other organizations throughout our region. Of these, 46,344 were about people coming into contact with dangerous or potentially dangerous substances (“exposures”). Almost 4,000 calls were from people with questions or people requesting educational information and materials.



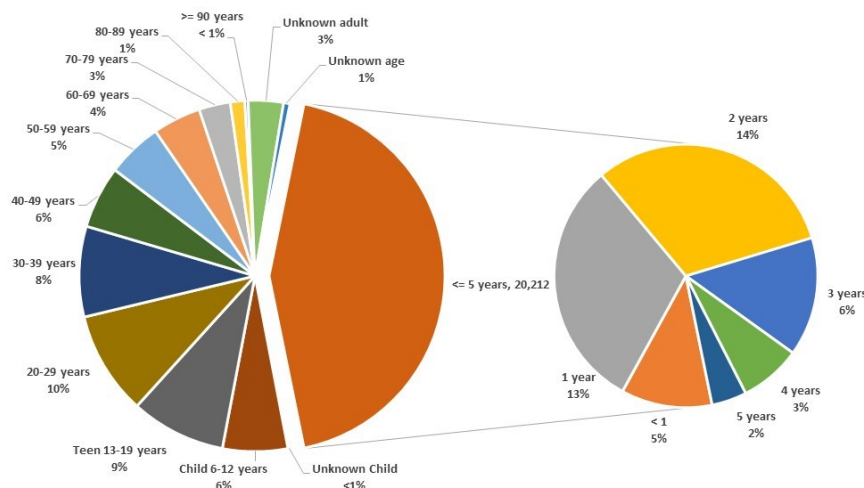
Counties with the most calls to the poison center



Who calls the poison center?

Poisonings can happen almost anywhere. In 2019, the poison center received calls from people at home, a workplace, school, other public areas and health care facilities. 88% of all exposure calls came from the patient’s own residence or another residence. Regardless of the caller’s location, our nurses, pharmacists and doctors provide expert care starting from the moment a caller reaches out to the poison center. Our team works closely with the patient’s family and health care team, if needed, until the case is resolved.

2019 Exposures by Age



Pediatric poisonings

Calls about pediatric poisonings (children ages 0-19) made up 57% of the calls to the poison center in 2019. Calls about poisonings among children 5 years old and younger represent the majority of those calls. While calls about young children may be more common, the most serious cases occurred in older children, teens, and adults.

Poison centers are for everyone. Our services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and are always free.

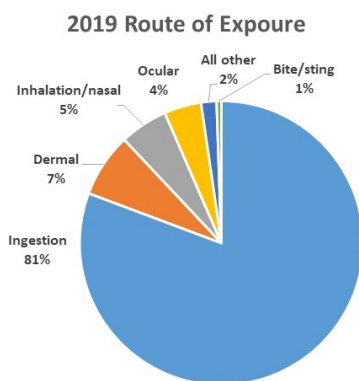
Common substances involved with calls to the poison center

Top 10 Exposure Categories by Age, 2019								
	Total/All Ages		Children <=5		Children/Teens 6-19		Adults Age >=20	
Rank	Substance	Exposure Count	Substance	Exposure Count	Substance	Exposure Count	Substance	Exposure Count
1	Analgesics	6,462	Cosmetics/ personal care products	2,328	Analgesics	1,384	Analgesics	3,113
2	Cleaning substances (household)	3,595	Cleaning substances (household)	2,011	Antidepressants	900	Antidepressants	2,181
3	Antidepressants	3,382	Analgesics	1,939	Stimulants and street drugs	459	Cardiovascular drugs	2,010
4	Cosmetics/ personal care products	3,374	Foreign bodies/ toys/ miscellaneous	1,658	Sedative/ hypnotics/ anti-psychotics	391	Sedative/ hypnotics/ anti-psychotics	2,009
5	Cardiovascular drugs	2,713	Dietary supplements/herbals/ homeopathic	1,249	Cold and cough preparations	379	Alcohols	1,712
6	Sedative/ hypnotics/ anti-psychotics	2,572	Plants	1,037	Antihistamines	369	Cleaning substances (household)	1,239
7	Foreign bodies/ toys/ miscellaneous	2,234	Vitamins	959	Cosmetics/ personal care products	360	Anticonvulsants	1,187
8	Alcohols	2,045	Topical preparations	876	Cardiovascular drugs	338	Stimulants and street drugs	1,081
9	Stimulants and street drugs	1,832	Pesticides	792	Cleaning substances (household)	321	Hormones and hormone antagonists	845
10	Dietary supplements/herbals/ homeopathic	1,798	Electrolytes and minerals	518	Foreign bodies/ toys/ miscellaneous	299	Chemicals	840

Why people call the poison center

The most common substances involved with calls to the poison center were medicine, cleaning products and cosmetics/personal care products. The unique landscape and potential hazards in our service area means we also treat unique exposures to substances such as marijuana, marine biotoxin and envenomation, and mushroom and plant poisonings. The majority of calls in 2019 were unintentional (75%). The poison center also receives calls about potential poisonings due to self-harm, substance abuse and misuse.

People are typically exposed to a poison or potential poison because they swallowed it (ingestion). They may also experience a poisoning because something has been inhaled, splashed in the eye (ocular exposure) or on the skin (dermal exposure), or because of a bite or sting.



Focus on Prevention

In alignment with our mission to prevent poisonings, poison center staff and volunteers provide professional training and public education programs in the community throughout the year.

In 2019, the poison center reached almost 500 children and adults through direct education and approximately 6,400 more through community events.

More than 300 professionals were trained by the poison center in 2019, including nurses, resident physicians, EMS and other first responders across the region.